DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 316 497 SO 020 704

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TITLE We, the Americans.
INSTITUTION Bureau of the Census (DOC), Suitland, Md.
PUB DATE Jan 84
NOTE 17p.; For related document, see SO 020 703.
PUB TYPE Statistical Data (110) -- Reference Materials - General (130) -- Guides - Non-Classroom Use (055)

EDRS PRICE MF01/PC01 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS *Census Figures; Charts; Educational Attainment; Employed Women; Employment Patterns; Geographic Distribution; Mortality Rate; Older Adults; Population Distribution; Population Growth; Population Trends; Poverty; *Profiles; Racial Composition; Residential Patterns
IDENTIFIERS *Census 1980

ABSTRACT

Demographic data based on the U.S. census of 1980 are presented and compared to data from the 1970 census. A series of charts, maps, graphs, and tables provide detailed statistical data on such things as population growth trends, population by race and age, educational achievement, number of people living alone, male and female occupations, percent homeowners, and so on. A narrative account elaborates on the information found in the charts and tables. The information may be summarized briefly as follows: It is unlikely that the U.S. population will ever again grow as rapidly as during the 20 years following World War II. The population is moving south and west, out of large cities, and to suburbs and the countryside. Minority populations are growing at a faster rate than the rest of the population. The population is aging and will continue to grow older. More people are living alone, and families are smaller. The population as a whole is better educated than earlier generations. People are marrying later than they used to. Slightly over half of all women are now in the work force. Incomes rose in the 1970s, but the gains were largely offset by increases in the cost of living. The poverty rate dropped slightly during the 1970s for the total population, but it dropped substantially for senior citizens. More people are buying their own homes, despite higher costs. Classroom teachers can use this resource for research projects and lecture material. (JB)

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We, The Americans

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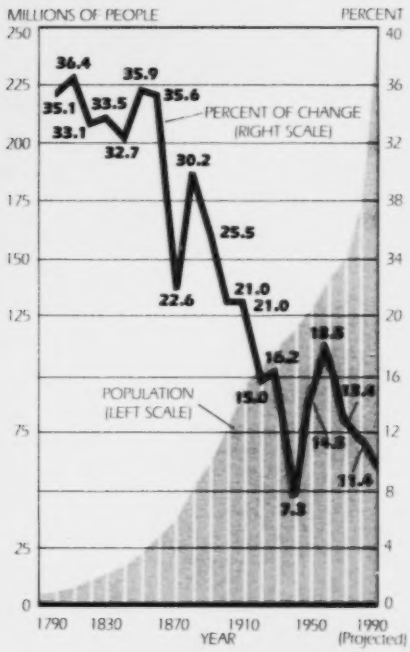
US CENSUS

We, The Americans

We Americans take a good look at ourselves every 10 years to see how many of us there are, our age and racial makeup, where and how we're living, our educational attainment, the work we do and how much we're paid for it, and other important facts. We've taken a census every 10 years since 1790, when the framers of the Constitution decided that censuses were important enough to be required by that document. In 1980 we took the 20th census.

When we look at each new census and compare the results with those that have gone before, we can measure what's been happening to us and perhaps determine where we're going. Here is our latest national photograph, side by side with the one developed in 1970 and sometimes earlier ones. Occasionally you also will find snapshots from the many surveys taken between the censuses.

Total Population and Percent Change from Preceding Census



We're still growing, but more slowly . . .

The census showed that there were 226,545,805 of us living in the United States on April 1, 1980; 10 years earlier we numbered 203,302,031. This gain of some 23 million is equal to our entire population in 1850. Yet it was the slowest growth—just 11.4 percent—in this century, except for the Great Depression years of the 1930s. For comparison, the first census in 1790 revealed a population of just under 4 million, by 1900 we had grown to 76 million, and by 1950 we numbered about 151 million.

We'll grow even more slowly from now on . . .

Trends shown by censuses and other statistics on births and deaths, and the numbers of people moving into and out of the nation, help demographers (professionals who study population trends) to estimate our population from year to year and also to look ahead. For instance, they know that during the summer of 1983 we passed the 234 million mark.

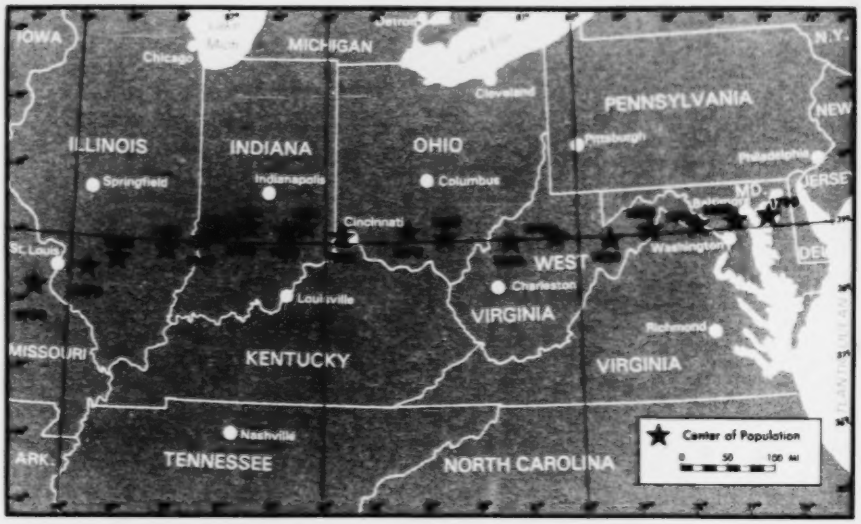
Our total numbers in the future, of course, will depend on what happens to the fertility, mortality, and net immigration rates. The Census Bureau has developed several series of population projections that take these rates into account. If we look at the middle series, we see a growth of 9.2 percent in the 1980s and 7.1 percent in the 1990s. Population growth is expected to continue to slow as the next century unfolds.

Here are some projections of what we may number in the future:

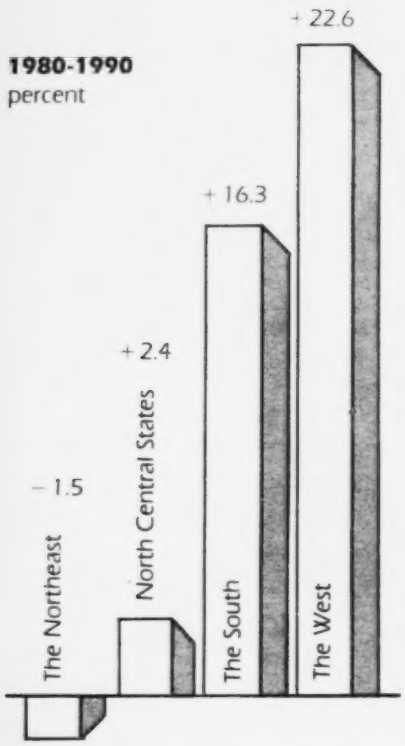
1985: 238,648,000
1990: 249,731,000
1995: 259,631,000
2000: 267,990,000
2025: 301,022,000
2050: 308,856,000

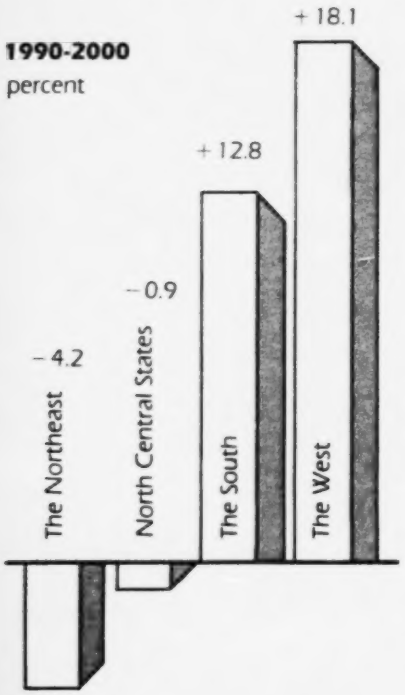
We're still moving west—and south . . .

From its 1790 location 23 miles east of Baltimore, Maryland, the nation's "population center" has moved steadily west and slightly south over the decades. The center* crossed the Mississippi River sometime during the 1970s to Jefferson County, Missouri, as measured by the 1980 census.



*The "population center" is where the country would balance perfectly if it were a flat surface and every person on it had equal weight.





Based on trends already taking place, here are regional population projections for the final two decades of this century:

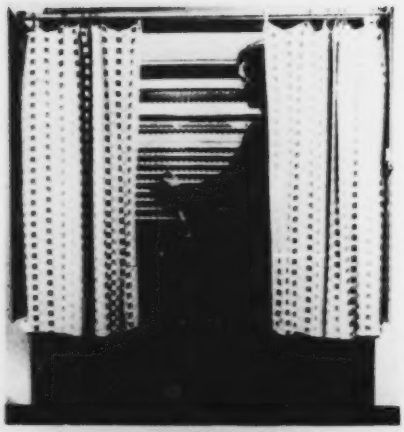
Ninety percent of our growth in the last decade was in the South and West, and for the first time, more than half of our population (52.3 percent) was living in those two regions on census day. Here is the growth from 1970 to 1980 compared with the previous decade:

	1970-1980	1960-1970
The Northeast:	0.2 percent	10 percent
North Central States:	4 percent	10 percent
The South:	20 percent	14 percent
The West:	24 percent	24 percent

The Mountain States grew the fastest in the last decade, an increase of 37 percent. The Middle Atlantic States actually lost population—just over 1 percent.

1980 State Population, Ranking, and Change Since 1970

	1980 population	1980 rank	Percent change 1970-1980
Alabama	3,893,888	22	13.1
Alaska	401,851	51	32.8
Arizona	2,718,215	29	53.1
Arkansas	2,286,435	33	18.9
California	23,667,902	1	18.5
Colorado	2,889,964	28	30.8
Connecticut	3,107,576	25	2.5
Delaware	594,338	48	8.4
District of Columbia	638,333	47	−15.6
Florida	9,746,324	7	43.5
Georgia	5,463,105	13	19.1
Hawaii	964,691	39	25.3
Idaho	943,935	41	32.4
Illinois	11,426,518	5	2.8
Indiana	5,490,224	12	5.7
Iowa	2,913,808	27	3.1
Kansas	2,363,679	32	5.1
Kentucky	3,660,777	23	13.7
Louisiana	4,205,900	19	15.4
Maine	1,124,660	38	13.2
Maryland	4,216,975	18	7.5
Massachusetts	5,737,037	11	0.8
Michigan	9,262,078	8	4.3
Minnesota	4,075,970	21	7.1
Mississippi	2,520,638	31	13.7
Missouri	4,916,686	15	5.1
Montana	786,690	44	13.3
Nebraska	1,569,825	35	5.7
Nevada	800,493	43	63.8
New Hampshire	920,610	42	24.8
New Jersey	7,364,823	9	2.7
New Mexico	1,302,894	37	28.1
New York	17,558,072	2	−3.7
North Carolina	5,881,766	10	15.7
North Dakota	652,717	46	5.7
Ohio	10,797,630	6	1.3
Oklahoma	3,025,290	26	18.2
Oregon	2,633,105	30	25.9
Pennsylvania	11,863,895	4	0.5
Rhode Island	947,154	40	−0.3
South Carolina	3,121,820	24	20.5
South Dakota	690,768	45	3.7
Tennessee	4,591,120	17	16.9
Texas	14,229,191	3	27.1
Utah	1,461,037	36	37.9
Vermont	511,456	49	15.0
Virginia	5,346,818	14	14.9
Washington	4,132,156	20	21.1
West Virginia	1,949,644	34	11.8
Wisconsin	4,705,767	16	6.5
Wyoming	469,557	50	41.3



Census numbers shifted political representation . . .

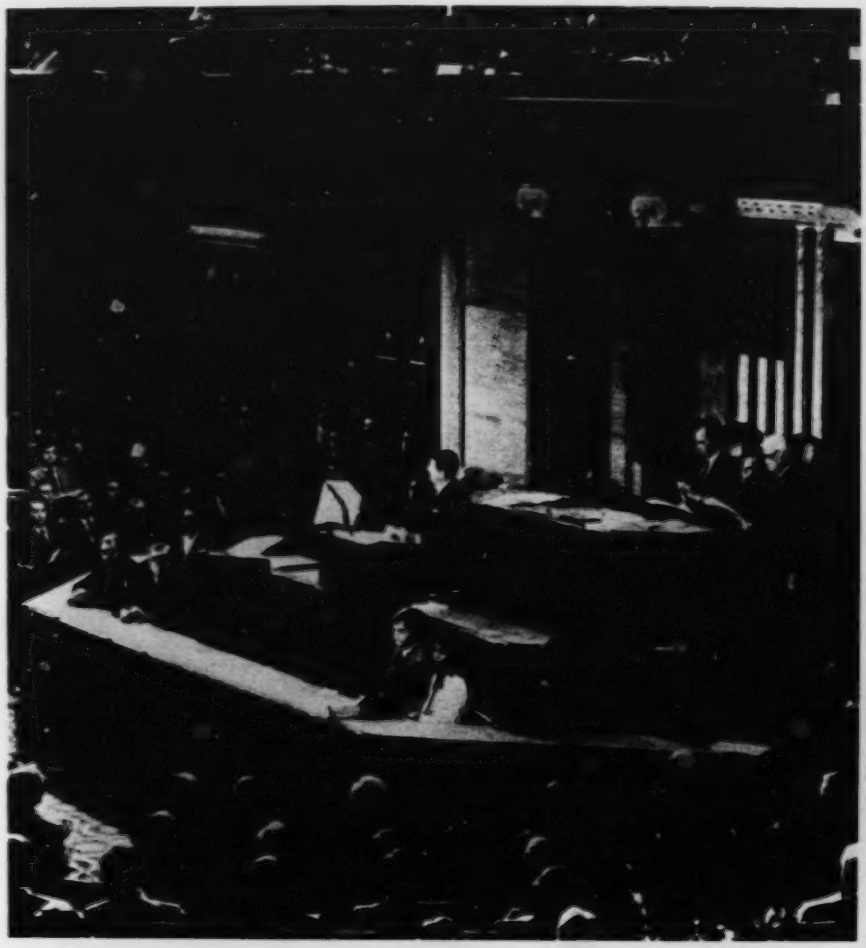
The census is required by the Constitution to determine the number of seats that each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives. The number of seats currently is fixed at 435, and states that lose population or grow slowly may lose seats to fast-growing states. Here are the gainers and losers between 1970 and 1980:

The gainers: 4 seats—Florida
3 seats—Texas
2 seats—California
1 seat—Arizona, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Tennessee, Utah, Washington

The losers: 5 seats—New York
2 seats—Illinois, Ohio, Pennsylvania
1 seat—Indiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, New Jersey, South Dakota

An American heritage: choosing our own leaders...

We Americans largely control our own destiny by deciding who will serve in those 435 seats, who will fill the 100 Senate seats, and who will hold the reins in the White House. The census itself doesn't ask about voting, but surveys help to measure how many of us vote. One message is clear: Of those who are eligible, too few of us exercise that rarest of privileges, especially younger Americans.

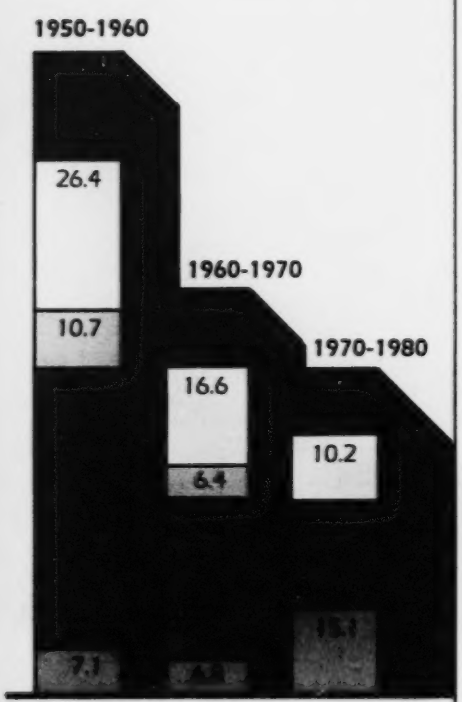


Percent Voting by Sex and Age, 1964-1982

	Congressional elections					Presidential elections				
	1982	1978	1974	1970	1966	1980	1976	1972	1968	1964
Population of voting age, total (millions)	165.5	151.6	141.3	120.7	112.8	157.1	146.5	136.2	116.5	110.6
Percent voted, total	48.5	45.9	44.7	54.6	55.4	59.2	59.2	63.0	67.8	69.3
Males	48.7	46.6	46.2	56.8	58.2	59.1	59.6	64.1	69.8	71.9
Females	48.4	45.3	43.4	52.7	53.0	59.4	58.8	62.0	66.0	67.0
18 to 24 years old	24.8	23.5	23.8	30.4	31.1	39.9	42.2	49.6	50.4	50.9
25 to 44 years old	45.4	43.1	42.2	51.9	53.1	58.7	58.7	62.7	66.6	69.0
45 to 64 years old	62.2	58.5	56.9	64.2	64.5	69.3	68.7	70.8	74.9	75.9
65 years and over	59.9	55.9	51.4	57.0	56.1	65.1	62.2	63.5	65.8	66.3

Americans 45 to 64 years old are the most likely to vote. But when one considers that many people in the oldest age group—65 years and over—are well up in years and can't get around so well anymore, these citizens probably make the greatest effort to vote.

Percent Growth in Population Inside and Outside Metro Areas, 1950-1980



We're heading to the countryside and to smaller towns and cities...

Between the last two censuses we saw a striking development, one that the nation hasn't experienced in at least 100 years: The population grew faster outside our metropolitan areas than in them*—15.1 percent outside compared with 10.2 percent inside. You can track this major population shift since 1950 in the chart at the left.

You can see that the central cities of our metropolitan areas, taken together, virtually stopped growing in the 1970s.

Some developments not in the chart : our largest metro areas—those over 3 million—grew only about 2 percent in the 1970s. Some actually lost population: New York, Philadelphia, Detroit, and Boston. Chicago gained slightly, while Los Angeles and San Francisco grew significantly.

Growth of metropolitan areas with populations of half a million to 3 million also slowed considerably compared with the previous decade, while those below 500,000 grew somewhat faster. However, even with the slower growth rates, three-quarters of us continue to live in the metropolitan areas.

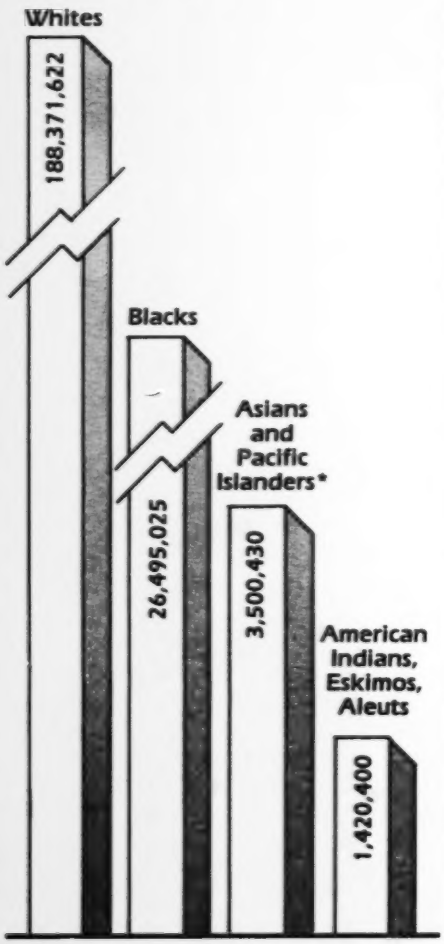
The suburbs are still the fastest-growing areas and much of the growth outside our metropolitan areas—perhaps one-quarter to one-third—took place just outside the official boundaries. But the picture farther out, away from the more densely populated areas, is particularly striking: The rural population growth in the seventies—in our small villages and in the open countryside—*was the greatest since the 1870s!* These areas grew by nearly 6 million—from 53.6 million in 1970 to 59.5 million in 1980, or just over 11 percent. These new residents are not farmers; the farm population declined in the 1970s.

Why are people moving from the cities and suburbs? Public opinion polls show that most people would rather live in a small town or rural area if they could, and now more of them can because:

... New employment opportunities have opened up as light industries move to less expensive and more attractive locations.

*A metropolitan area generally has been defined as a "central city" of 50,000 or more plus the surrounding jurisdictions that have "close social and economic ties" to that city. In some cases this involves two, or so-called "twin" cities.

Population by race



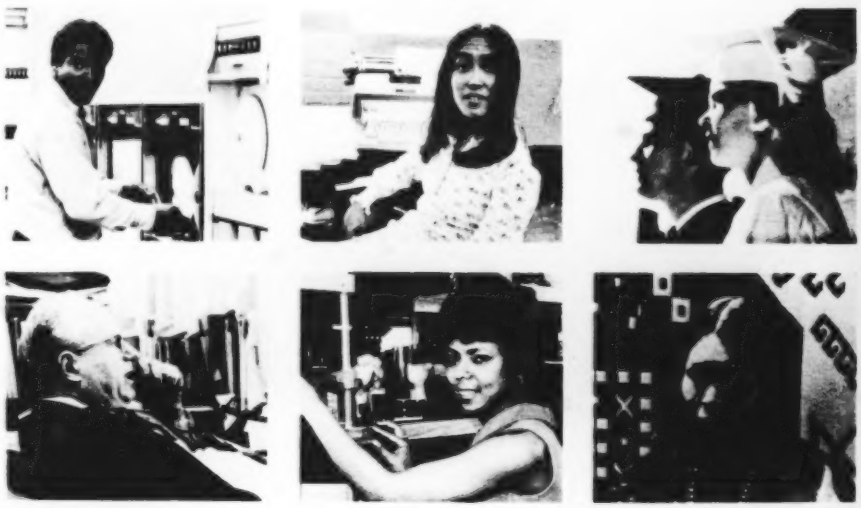
*This includes Chinese, Filipinos, Japanese, Asian Indians, Koreans, Vietnamese, Hawaiians, Samoans, and Guamanians.

. . . Our improved highway system gives smaller communities better access to supplies and markets.

. . . Retirees are relocating to less congested areas, particularly in Florida and the Southwestern States.

Also, in many areas long-time rural residents are finding jobs closer to their home communities rather than moving away to large metropolitan areas.

We're many different kinds of people...



When the nation's 80 million households received their 1980 census forms they were asked to supply information on everyone living there, and answers to some of the basic questions revealed the following information:

We had 116,492,644 females and 110,053,161 males. The females were 51.4 percent of our population, hardly any different from the 51.3 percent in 1970.

The numbers in the chart on the left don't add up to the total population, because 6,758,319 million people reported themselves as "other" race.

A question on every census form asked for the number of people in the household who were of Spanish origin. The result was a count of 14,608,673. People of Spanish origin may be of any race: in the 1980 census, most (56 percent) reported themselves as White, but another 40 percent reported themselves as "other" race.

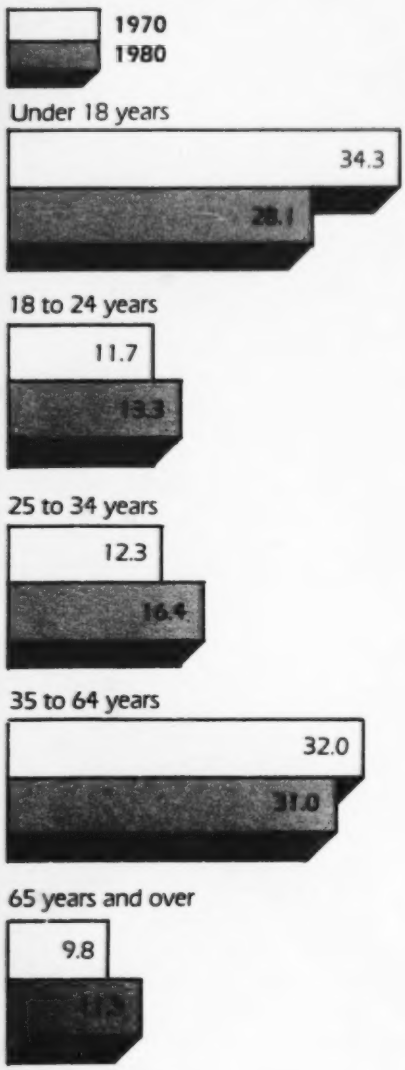
Some racial and ethnic groups grew substantially faster than others during the decade for a variety of reasons in addition to natural increase. For instance, improvements in census methods led to a more complete count of the population. And many Asians and Hispanics came to this country during the decade.

Black population	+ 17.3 percent
Asian and Pacific Islander population	+ 127.5 percent
American Indian, Eskimo, and Aleut population	+ 71.7 percent
Spanish-origin population	+ 61.0 percent

Together these populations accounted for nearly one out of every five people in this country.

We are getting older...

Percentage of Total Population by Age Group, 1970 and 1980



One of the most important measures of our population is age structure. It tells us how many schools and colleges we will need, what will happen to the work force, what kinds of services should be offered and planned for, and how many and what kinds of products we should make—among other considerations.

Our age structure has been changing dramatically. Between 1970 and 1980 the high school age and younger population decreased, while the number of those in their early career years—ages 25-34—rose by almost half. The population 65 and older also increased substantially. All these numbers are having and will continue to have a major impact on American society.

Here is a statistical picture of these changes:

Population by Age Group and Percent Change, 1970-1980

	1980	1970	Percent Change
Under 18 years.....	63,754,960	69,706,736	−8.5
18 to 24 years.....	30,022,207	23,728,117	+26.5
25 to 34 years.....	37,081,839	24,929,770	+48.7
35 to 64 years.....	70,137,372	64,957,601	+8.0
65 years and over.....	25,549,427	19,979,807	+27.9

In addition to the actual numbers and percent change, another important consideration is the shifting proportion of the population represented by these age groups as shown in the chart on the left.

As a whole, the nation grew older during the decade. Our median age (half were older and half younger) in 1980 was 30.0 years compared with 28.1 in 1970. The median age will continue to move up, influenced strongly by the aging of the huge "baby boom" generation—those born in the 20 years following World War II.

Because of their comparatively large numbers the baby boomers are having an enormous impact on American society as they move through the various lifecycle stages. In the sixties they filled the schools to overflowing. Right now they are competing for jobs and there is pressure to find them suitable housing. Later on, as they start reaching retirement age, their social and medical needs and funding to provide their retirement benefits will be crucial challenges for the country.

We have smaller but many more households . . .

A very significant trend that we experienced in the last decade, and that we continue to experience, has to do with the composition of the American household. (A household is the person or people living in one dwelling unit—for example a single house, an apartment in a high-rise, a "row" or "town" house.)

Earlier we said our total population grew by 11.4 percent between the last two censuses. Yet the number of households grew by nearly 27 percent, more than double the population growth. How can that be? The answer is that there was tremendous growth in the number of smaller households and families. First, the baby boomers began to become old enough to start forming their own households, and second, more people are living alone—both young and old (nearly 20 million in 1982).

The result is that the average number of people per household has dropped—from 3.11 in 1970 to 2.75 in 1980 and, according to a recent survey, to 2.72 in 1982.

Number of Households and Percent Growth, 1970-1980

	1980		1970		1970-1980
	number (in millions)	percent	number (millions)	percent	percent growth
Total households	80.4	100.0	63.4	100.0	+26.8
Family households	58.9	73.3	51.0	80.3	+15.7
Other households (including people living alone)	21.4	26.7	12.5	19.7	+71.9

How many households can we expect by 1990? The best estimate is about 97 million. This would be a 20 percent growth from 1980, which means that we will need to build a lot of new houses, apartments, and mobile homes in the next few years.

Wedding bells have not been ringing as often . . .

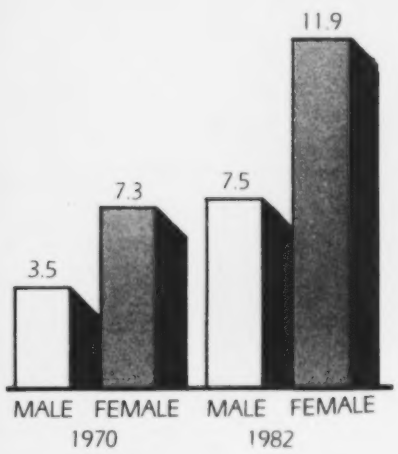
A major reason we have smaller households these days is that more people are staying single longer, or are not getting married at all. Many are living alone, or perhaps with apartment or housemates, instead of starting families.

We know some of the reasons. For instance, increasing numbers of men and women are continuing their education—getting college degrees and going to graduate schools. And we know that far more women are establishing careers than ever before.

The statistics since 1970 are startling. By 1982, more than half (53 percent) of women 20 to 24 years old had never married, a vast increase from only 36 percent in 1970. The proportion of women from 25 to 29 who had never married more than doubled between 1970 and 1982—from 11 to 23 percent.

Here is a quick picture of the trends since 1970.

Persons Living Alone, by Sex
(in millions)



Percent Never Married by Sex and Age, 1970-1982

	1982	1980	1970
Males			
20 to 24 years old	72.0	68.8	54.7
25 to 29 years old	36.1	33.1	19.1
30 to 34 years old	17.3	15.9	9.4
Females			
20 to 24 years old	53.4	50.2	35.8
25 to 29 years old	23.4	20.9	10.5
30 to 34 years old	11.6	9.5	6.2

Another contribution to smaller households comes from those who have been divorced, which sometimes results in two smaller households where before there was one larger household.

The divorce rate increased sharply between 1970 and 1981, so that now we project that one of every two marriages will end in divorce. However, recent figures indicate a modest turnaround. Marriages were up 2 percent while divorces were down 3 percent from 1981. We will have to wait to see if this develops into a trend. Whatever happens, business and industry planners will watch carefully so they can adjust to changing markets.

We're better educated than ever before . . .

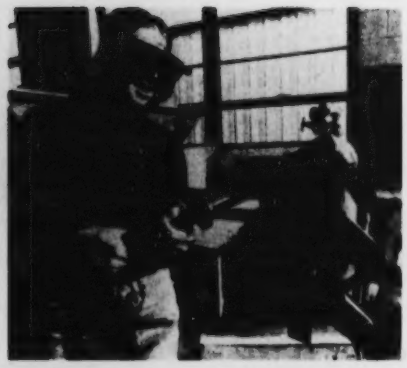
One of the greatest achievements of American society is our educational attainment. By 1981, 70 percent of those 25 years old and over had at least 4 years of high school. This is a far greater proportion than the 1970 figure of 55 percent. For the first time in our history, the 1980 census showed, at least half the residents 25 and older in every state had completed high school.

The reason the increase has been so sharp is that not only have high school graduation rates been improving, but also younger Americans have been replacing older, less educated Americans.

The college picture is just as impressive. A comparatively small percentage of us attend college for at least 4 years, just 11 percent in 1970 and 17 percent in 1981. But the college completion percentage grew by more than one-half while the high school completion percentage grew by only one-quarter.

High School and College Completion Percentage by Age Group, 1981 and 1970

	4 or more years of high school		4 or more years of college	
	1981	1970	1981	1970
	(percent)		(percent)	
Total 25 years old and over	69.7	55.2	17.1	11.0
25 to 34 years old	85.6	73.8	23.2	15.8
35 to 44 years old	79.0	64.3	21.5	12.8
45 to 54 years old	69.6	58.2	15.8	10.0
55 to 64 years old	62.6	43.8	12.0	8.7
65 years old and over	41.8	28.3	8.5	6.3



Our women are changing the work force . . .

More women have been entering the job market in recent years, and this is a major reason our work force has been growing faster than the working-age population. Between 1970 and 1981, our population 16 years old and over grew by 24 percent, while the civilian work force grew by 31 percent. Women accounted for nearly 59 percent of this growth, and for the first time, more than half of working-age women were in the job market—52 percent compared with just 43 percent in 1970. In contrast, the percentages for men actually dropped, from 80 to 77 percent. As a result, women increased as a share of all civilian workers from 38 percent in 1970 to 43 percent in 1981.

We work at many different jobs . . .

When America's households filled out their census forms, some were asked to describe what kind of work they were doing. The result: nearly 30,000 different occupations were reported by a work force of 104.5 million—60 million men and 44.5 million women. These have been placed in 503 specific job categories under six broad groups.

This table shows those groups and some of their major components.

Male and Female Occupations (in millions): 1980

	Total*	Male	Female
Managerial and professional	22.7	13.5	9.2
Executive, administrative, managerial	10.4	7.2	3.2
Professional	12.3	6.2	6.0
Technical, sales, administrative support	30.9	11.0	19.9
Technicians and related support	3.1	1.7	1.3
Sales	10.3	5.3	5.0
Administrative support (incl. clerical)	17.6	4.0	13.5
Service occupations	13.6	5.6	8.0
Private household occupations	0.6	0.03	0.6
Protective services	1.5	1.4	0.2
Other services	11.4	4.2	7.2
Farming, forestry, fishing	3.0	2.6	0.5
Precision production, craft, repairing	13.6	12.5	1.6
Operators, fabricators, laborers	20.0	14.5	5.5
Machine operators, assemblers, inspectors	10.1	6.0	4.1
Transportation (except motor vehicles)	4.8	4.4	0.4
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, laborers	5.1	4.1	1.0

*Because of rounding, some male/female numbers do not add to total.

There are scores of interesting comparisons between men and women in the 503 occupations listed under these basic categories. For instance, among professionals about the same number of men and women are in public relations, in editing and reporting, and in design work (artists). Men still dominate the engineering field (20 to 1). But among teachers below the college level, women outnumber men by 2½ to 1, and they dominate the nursing field by 23 to 1—although we do have more than 50,000 male nurses. In fact, two-thirds of the 6 million professional women are nurses or teachers.

How do we go to and from work? The census found that only about 6 million of us take public transportation—6.4 percent of the work force. Interestingly, despite the energy problems that emerged in the 1970s, this is a drop from 1970, when about 9 percent of workers used public transportation. A major reason for the drop is the increased movement of people and jobs to areas outside the cities, where mass transportation is not as available.

Our incomes rise, but barely gain in buying power . . .

The census also asks about income in the calendar year preceding the census. The answers for families—nearly 60 million of them—show that their median cash income in 1979 was $19,917. (Median means half the families had incomes under that figure and half over it.) This was just over double the median 10 years earlier. But when one adds up the annual increases in the cost of living (inflation), our families experienced a "real" gain of only 5 percent over the period. The corresponding gain was 35 percent from 1959 to 1969.

This table shows how many and what percentage of our families had cash incomes at various levels in 1979.

Number and Percentage of Families by Income Groups: 1979

	Number of families	Their percentage
	59,190,133	100.0
Up to $5,000	4,344,476	7.3
$5,000 up to $10,000	7,746,464	13.1
$10,000 up to $15,000	8,709,248	14.7
$15,000 up to $20,000	8,937,703	15.1
$20,000 up to $25,000	8,485,832	14.3
$25,000 up to $30,000	6,586,196	11.1
$30,000 up to $50,000	11,048,583	18.7
$50,000 up to $75,000	2,326,739	3.9
$75,000 or more	1,004,892	1.7

Not much change in the number of poor people . . .

The census also shows how many of us have incomes below the poverty line. Based on cash income only, the number of poor people in 1979 was 27.4 million, or 12.4 percent of the population. This represents a slight decline from 13.7 percent 10 years earlier. However, if one included the value of benefits such as food stamps, school lunches, public housing, and medical care, the poverty numbers would be considerably smaller.

The percentage in poverty among the elderly—people 65 and older—dropped by nearly one-half—from 27.3 to 14.8 percent. Two reasons for this were increases in Social Security benefits and automatic raises to help them keep up with the cost of living. For all families the percentage in poverty declined modestly from 10.7 to 9.6.

A major problem for the nation concerns the high incidence of poverty among families having a female householder with no husband present. The number of these families grew by about 48 percent in the 1970s and now constitutes 15 percent of all families, up from 11 percent in 1969. Not only has their number grown, they also now make up about 44 percent of all families living in poverty compared with 33 percent in 1969. This combination produces a new challenge to America as we strive to achieve a decent standard of living.

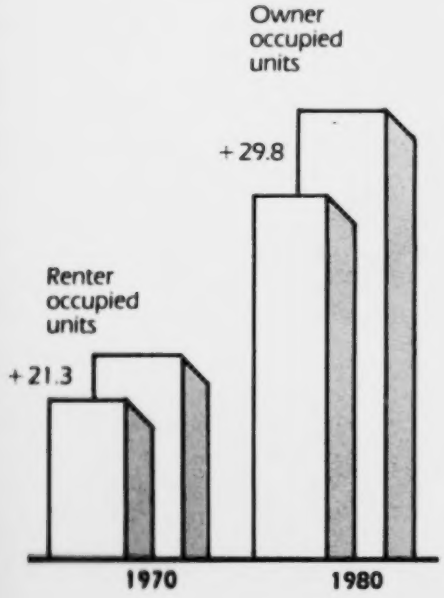
In general, poverty is higher in central cities than in the suburbs or outside the metropolitan areas. Although more poor people live in the South than any other region, its proportion of these people dropped from 46 to 41 percent in the last decade.

We're a nation of homeowners, and the percentage is slowly rising . . .

In spite of higher costs in the last decade, increasing numbers of Americans continued to buy homes. The 1980 census showed that about two-thirds of the nation's households lived in units that they owned. And 65 percent of these owner households had mortgages, the rest having paid for their homes.

Housing Units Occupied by Owners and by Renters, 1970 and 1980

	1980	1970	Percent change
Total occupied housing units	80,378,283	63,449,747	+26.7
Owner occupied units	51,787,104	39,885,180	+29.8
Percent owner occupied	64.4	62.9	
Renter occupied units	28,591,179	23,564,567	+21.3



Here are some other statistics about our homes:

- In 1980 the median value of America's homes was $47,200, up 178 percent from $17,000 in 1970.
- The median monthly housing costs for single-family homes with a mortgage was $366, up 113 percent from $172 in 1971.
- The proportion of housing units lacking complete plumbing facilities for use only by the occupants was 3 percent in 1980, down from 6 percent in 1970 and 18 percent in 1960.
- The proportion of housing units heated primarily through electricity rose from 8 to 18 percent, and those using wood as the main fuel rose from 1 to 3 percent during the decade. While the use of those fuels was increasing, households primarily heating with oil products dropped from 26 to 18 percent. Most of us—53 percent—use utility gas to heat our dwellings.
- The census showed that 55 percent of our homes were air conditioned in 1980, compared with 36 percent in 1970. The actual number of homes with air conditioning almost doubled.
- A high proportion of households, 87 percent, had at least one vehicle (automobile, truck, or van) available for use by household members.
- We move a lot. The census showed that nearly half of our population was living in a different house or apartment in 1980 than in 1975.
- More of us live in single-family homes. Households in single-family dwellings grew 22 percent, from 44.0 million to 53.8 million. And households in multi-unit structures grew 31 percent, from 17.3 million to 22.7 million. The number of households living in mobile homes or trailers grew from 2.1 million in 1970 to 3.9 million in 1980, a rise of 88 percent.

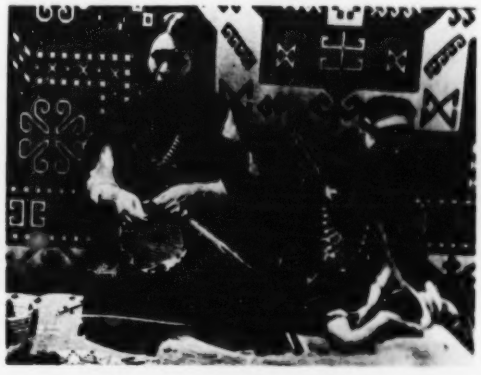
America is changing dramatically . . .

You have just read the story of America as told by statistics, a composite of the major characteristics of our people, measured by censuses taken every 10 years and surveys taken in other years.

Here is a brief summary of that story:

- It is very unlikely that we will ever again grow as rapidly as during the 20 years following World War II.
- We are moving south and west, out of large cities, and to suburbs and the countryside.
- Our minority populations are growing much faster than the rest of the population.
- Our population is aging and will continue to grow older.
- More of us are living alone, and our families are smaller.
- We're better educated.
- We're getting married later.
- Slightly over half of all women now are in the work force and many hold jobs previously monopolized by men.
- Our incomes continued to grow in the 1970s but the gains were largely offset by increases in the cost of living.
- The poverty rate dropped slightly during the 1970s for the total population, but it dropped substantially for senior citizens.
- More of us are buying our own homes, despite higher costs.

What of the future? If the changes in the present decade are as dramatic as in the past one, we will see a different America when we take the next census in 1990. How different remains to be seen. One thing is certain: We can't anticipate where we're going if we don't know where we are!



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This report was prepared
in the Public Information
Office, Bureau of the Census,
as an aid to education.

Written by:
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Public Affairs Specialist
January 1984

For sale by the
Superintendent of Documents
U.S. Government Printing Office
Washington, D.C. 20402

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